VISIT…

CRAFT FUN with SONDRA

Over 55 Arts & Crafts Projects

by Sondra Clark

with some help from her mom,
Silvana Clark

Craft Fun with Sondra

Sondra Clark

Craft Fun with Sondra
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Summary: A collection of more than fifty simple craft
projects, including ribbon boxes, pasta necklaces, wind chimes, shakers
and tambourines, puppets, cards, and more.
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This book is dedicated
to my sister Trina.

She always took time to
do crafts with me, even
when I was just 2 years old.
She also takes me to the mall
and doesn't complain when I
take a long time shopping!

Love,

Acknowledgments:

Thanks to:
Emily Eklund
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Bellingham, Washington for providing
the illustrations in this book.

Sondra has chosen
Bethany Christian Adoption Agency
to receive a portion of the sales
from this book.

Introduction

I wrote this book because I love making crafts. My family calls me the "Queen of Crafts." It's fun to take things like glue, paper, and yarn and create something brand new.

We even have an extra room that isn't used for guests. The whole room is full of craft supplies, including a five-foot-high bag of Styrofoam packing peanuts.

I hope you get some ideas from this book. Most of the projects don't have complicated directions. Be creative and feel free to change the supplies or steps so you can make your very own, one-of-a kind project.

Happy Crafting!
Sondra

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The most common supplies used in this book

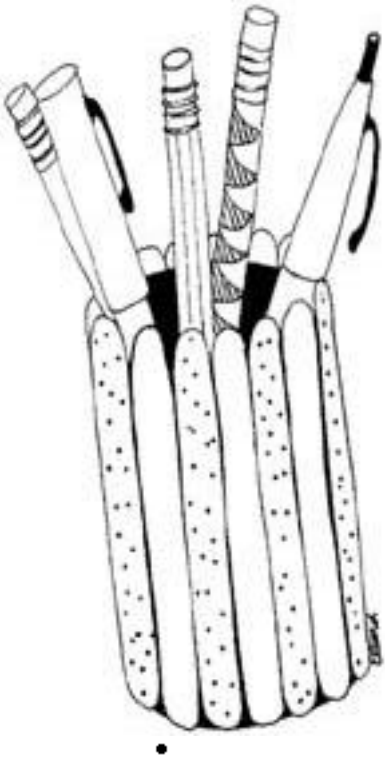
Acrylic paint
Adhesive backed paper
Borax
Brown paper bags
Brushes
Butcher paper
Cardboard tubes
Catalogs
Clothes pins
Construction paper
Cotton balls
Cotton swabs
Crayons
Crepe paper
Egg cartons
Fabric straps
Felt
Film canisters
Glitter
Glue (especially craft glue)
Juice cans and lids
Liquid starch
Magnets
Markers
Meat trays
Newspaper
Paint
Paper clips
Paper plates and cups
Pipe cleaners
Plastic bags
Pop bottles
Puzzles pieces
Ribbons
Rubber bands
Scissors
Sequins
Socks
Sondra's book!
Sponges
Stapler
String
Styrofoam
Stuffing
Tape
Wallpaper sample books
Wiggle eyes
Yarn
Yogurt containers

Ohh!
I like less
mess!

How to have fun making crafts without creating a huge mess:

Arts and crafts projects are fun for kids to make. Sometimes, though, adults complain we make too much of a mess. Here are some tips to having a good time while keeping paint, glue, and paper off the floor and ceiling.

- Work in an area that has an easy-to-clean floor. Some projects are best done outside.
- Cover your work area with newspapers. An old shower curtain is wonderful to spread over your craft table.
- If using paint or messy items, wear an old shirt or apron to protect your clothes.
- Make sure an adult is always with you if you need to use sharp scissors, an iron, or the stove.
- Keep a damp rag handy to wipe up any spills.
- Be sure to close paint bottles when you are finished.
- Pick up any loose paper scraps, string, or yarn from the floor.
- Put the caps back on all the markers so they don't dry out.
- Clean up any other messes!



OLD FASHIONED PENCIL HOLDER

SONDRA SAYS:
"My mom made one of these when she was a young girl at camp. She says they didn't have all the bright paints like we do today."

Here's what you need before you begin:

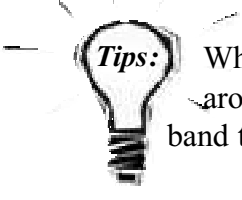
- empty soup can
- glue
- 25–30 popsicle sticks
- acrylic paint or markers
- ribbon
- stickers (optional)
- newspaper
- rubber band

Adult help:

Have an adult check that your can doesn't have sharp edges on the top.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Wash and dry soup can. Remove label.
2. Lay out your popsicle sticks on the newspaper.
3. Decorate the sticks with paint or markers. Decide if you want a repeating pattern or a free-form design.
4. Let paint dry.
5. Glue sticks onto the can.
6. Add stickers if you want.
7. When sticks are dry, tie a ribbon around the can as a decoration.
8. Use as a holder for your crayons or markers.



Tips: When gluing on the sticks, slide a rubber band around the can. Slide sticks under the rubber band to hold in place until glue dries.

FLOPPY FASHION HATS

SONDRA SAYS:
"These hats are great to make if you're playing dress-up with your friends."

Here's what you need before you begin:

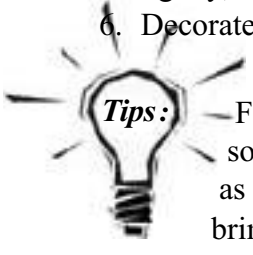
large sheets of newspaper (comics are great), or tissue paper, or newsprint
masking tape
paint or markers
sequins

Adult help:

You'll need an adult to wrap the paper around your head to create the hat.

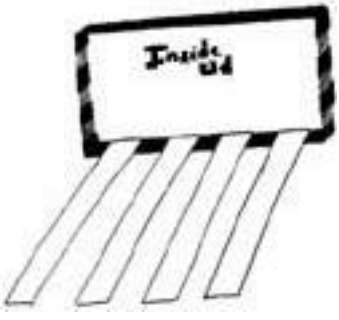
Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay 3–4 pieces of paper on a flat surface. Stagger the paper so they aren't exactly on top of each other.
2. Pick up paper and center all the sheets over your head.
3. Ask an adult to "mold" the paper around your head firmly.
4. Wrap masking tape several times around the paper on your head. This is the form for your hat.
5. Take the hat off and roll up the floppy brim. If you roll it tightly, the edges will stay up.
6. Decorate with paint, markers, and sequins.

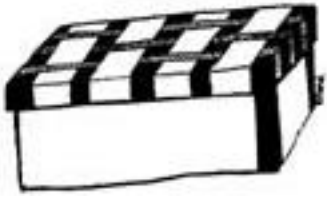


Tips: For variety, trim the hat brim with a wavy pattern so it is out of your face. Try other hat designs such as rolling up the back and sides while leaving a brim up front, like a baseball cap.

If you like to dress up and make costumes, look at the book: ***Child's Play Quick and Easy Costumes***, *Leslie Hamilton, Crown Publishing, 1995.*



RIBBON BOXES



SONDRA SAYS:
"These boxes end up looking like something you would buy in an expensive store."

Here's what you need before you begin:

box with lid
assorted ribbons
scissors
craft glue or hot glue gun
spray paint, or aluminum foil or construction paper

Adult help:

Make sure an adult uses the hot glue gun to attach the ribbons.

Follow these easy steps:

1. For best results, the box and cover should be a solid color. Spray paint works well, or cover with construction paper or even aluminum foil.
2. When the top of the lid is a solid color, place a dab of craft glue on one edge on the underneath side.
3. Attach a piece of ribbon that is 2 inches longer than the lid.
4. Repeat with 3–4 other pieces of ribbon, spaced evenly on the lid.
5. Bring the ribbons over the top of the lid and attach with glue on inside edge of box (the opposite side).
6. You should have 3–4 ribbons glued to the top of the lid.
7. Now you can get ready to weave. Glue 3–4 ribbons on an inside edge of the lid that doesn't have ribbons attached to it.
8. Take the end of the ribbon and weave it over and under the attached ribbons.
9. Glue the end on the inside of the lid (the opposite side).
10. Repeat with other ribbons.
11. Put the lid on the box and you have a fantastic box to store your valuable things or give as a gift.

Tips: This project lets you be as creative as you want. Try using different-sized ribbons, or change the pattern. You can attach 8 or 9 ribbons and have a tighter weaving design.

COLORFUL PASTA NECKLACES

SONDRA SAYS:
"Pasta is wonderful. You can eat it or use it for crafts."

Here's what you need before you begin:

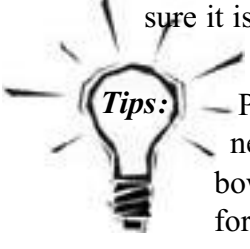
assorted pasta shapes (uncooked)
paper cups
rubbing alcohol
food coloring
plastic spoons
newspaper
yarn or dental floss

Adult help:

Make sure an adult is with you when you use the rubbing alcohol.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Fill 3–4 paper cups halfway full with rubbing alcohol.
2. Add 4–5 drops food coloring in each cup.
3. Add a few pasta pieces at a time.
4. Stir so all pasta is covered with the alcohol.
5. Let sit for 3–4 minutes.
6. Remove pasta and spread on several sheets of newspaper to dry.
7. Let dry overnight.
8. You now have bright pasta to make necklaces or collage pictures. (The rubbing alcohol keeps the pasta hard after it dries. If you soaked the pasta in water and food coloring, it would get mushy.)
9. String your necklace using yarn or dental floss. Make sure it is long enough to slip over your head.



Tips: Pasta with big holes works best for stringing necklaces. Smaller shapes such as sea shells or bow ties are great if you're gluing them on to paper for pictures.

SHINY FACE PUPPETS

SONDRA SAYS:
"These are fun to use if you take a walk with your family at night."

Here's what you need before you begin:

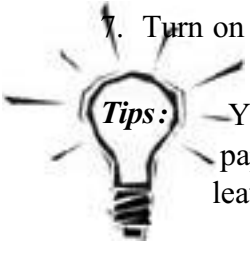
scissors
paper lunch bags
flashlight
scrap paper
yarn
trims (optional)
light-colored tissue paper
rubber band
glue
markers

Adult help:

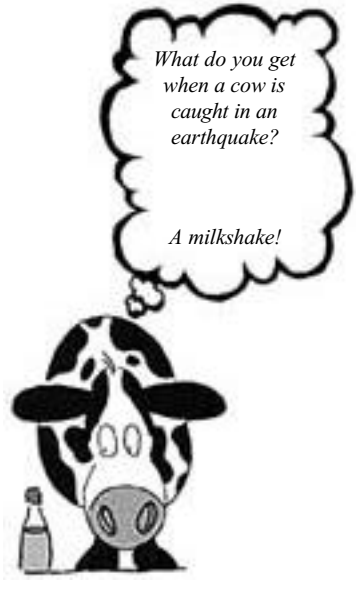
You might have to ask an adult to help you get the tissue paper inside the bag.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut a face out of the paper bag. Light shines through all the shapes, so the more details you cut, the more light will shine out.
2. Add details such as yarn hair, freckles, or a bow tie.
3. Put glue on the inside of the bag, around the cut-out face shapes.
4. Cut a piece of light-colored tissue paper to fit inside the bag.
5. Place tissue paper inside bag on top of glue. Let dry.
6. Wrap open edge of bag around top of flashlight. Secure with a rubber band.
7. Turn on the light and see your puppet face shine.



Tips: You can adapt this craft by cutting a face out of a paper plate. Staple 2 paper plates together, but leave room to stick in a flashlight.



THINKING CAPS

SONDRA SAYS:
"These are fun to make because you can be as wild as you want decorating your thinking cap."

Here's what you need before you begin:

glue
stapler
construction paper

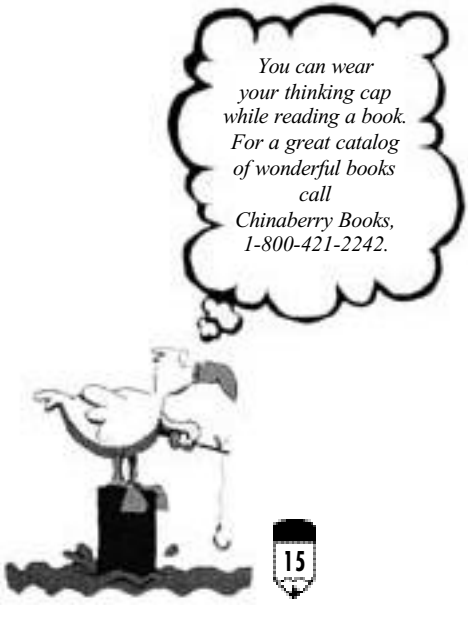
Adult help:

These are easy to make. Maybe you'll want to make one for your mom or dad.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut a 3-inch-wide strip of construction paper.
2. Measure the paper to fit around your forehead like a headband. Staple or glue the ends together.
3. Get wild and create a one-of-a-kind thinking cap.
4. Using the headband as a base, add strips of paper and attach with staples and glue. Wrap strips of paper around a pencil to make "curls."
5. Try adding paper antennas or colorful flowers onto your thinking cap.

Tips: Next time your teacher tells you to "Put on your thinking cap," you'll have something to put on your head!



SHAGGY HEADS

SONDRA SAYS:
"Make several of these heads and create different hairstyles. Try braids or a flat top."

Here's what you need before you begin:

sections of old nylon stockings
sawdust
rubber bands
shallow dish
small amount of grass seed
permanent markers or fabric paint
bucket

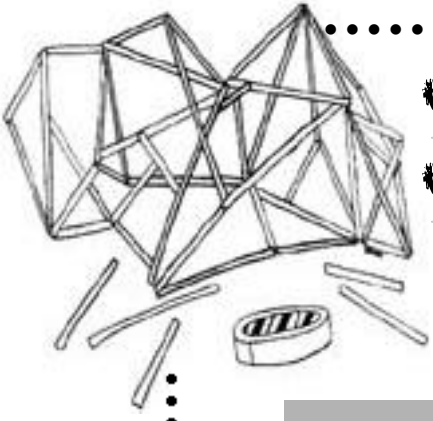
Adult help:

These need little or no adult help. Watch out—grownups like to make shaggy heads and take them to work!

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut about an 8-inch section of nylon stocking. Knot one end tightly with a rubber band.
2. Turn inside out and put 1–2 tablespoons grass seed in bottom.
3. Pack firmly with sawdust and shape into a round head.
4. Tie a knot on top or use another rubber band to close tightly. Trim any extra stocking.
5. Soak entire head in a bucket of water for 5 minutes.
6. Remove from bucket and set in shallow water-filled dish. Place in a sunny location.
7. The next day, when head is dry, decorate your head with permanent markers or fabric paint. Draw eyes, mustache, mouth, etc.
8. Wait 8–9 days and watch your shaggy head start growing green hair.
9. Keep your shaggy head in the water-filled dish for months of fun.

Tips: If you have difficulty finding sawdust, check with a lumberyard or home hardware store. They'll often scoop sawdust under their power saws and give it to you for free.



SILLY SCULPTURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a fun project to do when you have a group of friends working on it together."

Here's what you need before you begin:

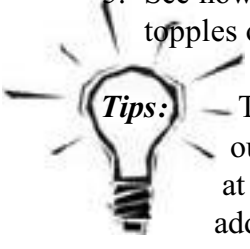
newspaper
masking tape
paint (optional)

Adult help:

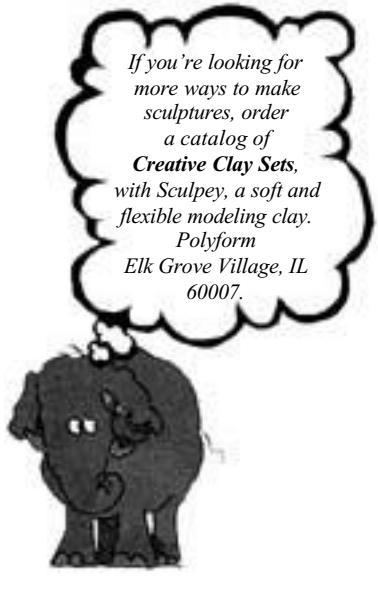
Ask an adult if you can tape the base of your sculpture to the floor.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Tightly roll up sheets of newspaper. Use full or half sheets of paper to get various lengths.
2. As you roll each sheet, tape the sides so you have solid newspaper "logs." These logs are used to make your sculpture.
3. After you have 15–20 logs, begin taping them together, any way you want.
4. To make a sturdier base, tape the bottom logs to the floor.
5. See how high you can make your sculpture before it topples over!



Tips: This is a fun group activity. Make the sculpture outside and then paint it. You'll be really amazed at how high and wide this sculpture becomes as you add more and more newspaper logs.



WACKY WIND CHIMES

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a great excuse for you to drink pop!"

Here's what you need before you begin:

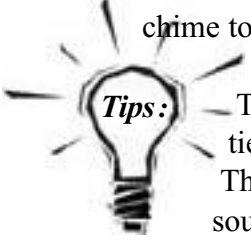
empty plastic soda bottle
sharp scissors
hole punch
yarn
permanent markers
assorted items like seashells, small toys, twigs, etc.
tape

Adult help:

Since it is awkward to cut plastic, have an adult cut the soda bottle. You can do the rest.

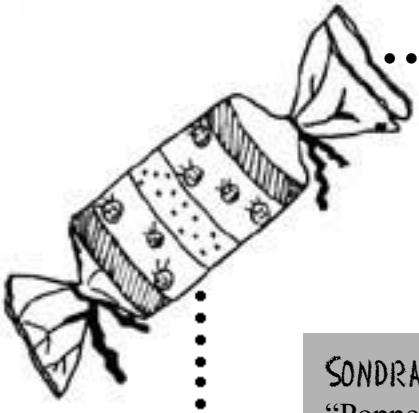
Follow these easy steps:

1. Wash and dry a plastic soda bottle. Remove label.
2. Cut bottle in half with sharp scissors. (An adult should do this.)
3. Punch 4–5 holes along the cut edge of the bottle top.
4. Tie one end of an 8-inch piece of yarn to each hole.
5. Attach various items to opposite end of yarn. You could hang beads, pine cones, or even plastic spoons on the yarn.
6. Decorate the soda bottle using the permanent markers.
7. Take another 8-inch piece of yarn and wrap it around the very top of the soda bottle several times. Tie a knot.
8. To keep this yarn secure, put a piece of tape over the wrapped yarn.
9. Use the loose end of yarn to help you tie your wind chime to a tree.



Tips: These wind chimes work especially well when you tie shrunken meat trays (see page 26) on each end. The meat trays are waterproof and make a great sound when they hit each other.

Need ideas for other wind chimes or mobiles? Look for ***The Big Book of Mobiles: Ocean Life****, by Time Warner, 1997.*



SILENT POPPERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"Poppers make great stocking stuffers or gifts for your friends."

Here's what you need before you begin:

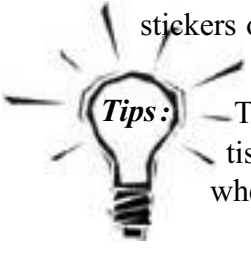
empty paper towel cardboard tubes
scrap pieces of ribbon
colorful paper
sequins
glue
aluminum foil
candy or small toys
stickers (optional)
markers (optional)

Adult help:

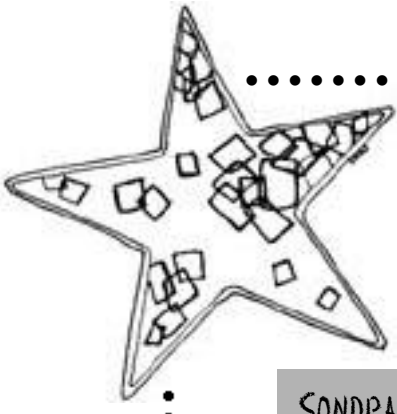
This is an easy project. Tell your parents they can relax while you make silent poppers.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut a paper towel tube in half.
2. Cut a piece of colorful paper large enough to cover the tube, with 3 extra inches on each end.
3. Wrap the paper around the cardboard tube.
4. Tie one end with colorful ribbon.
5. Put a few pieces of candy or small toys in the open end. Tie shut.
6. Decorate the tube. Glue ribbon with sequins. Add stickers or draw pictures with markers.



Tips : Try covering the poppers with assorted colors of tissue paper. The tissue creates a colorful effect when tied at the ends.



SUNLIGHT SHAPES

SONDRA SAYS:
"Your hands will get sticky doing this project, but the starch washes off easily."

Here's what you need before you begin:

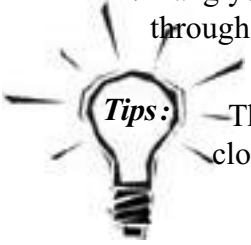
tissue paper
liquid starch
wax paper
sponge or paint brush
yarn
permanent marker

Adult help:

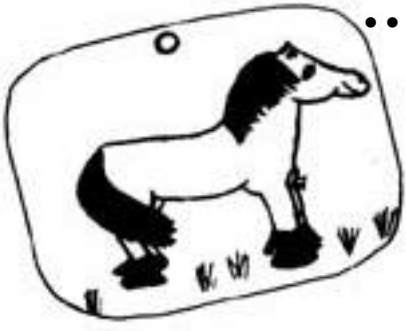
Sometimes it's hard to get the yarn to stick to the wax paper. Ask an adult to help.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay out a piece of waxed paper.
2. Draw a simple shape on the paper such as a heart, fish, or butterfly.
3. Outline the shape with glue.
4. Place a piece of yarn on top of the glue.
5. Let dry.
6. Cut or tear tissue paper into the size of postage stamps.
7. Using the sponge or brush, spread starch inside the design.
8. Add tissue paper, covering entire area. It's OK if pieces of tissue paper go over the yarn edge.
9. Let dry slightly.
10. Then add 2–3 more layers of starch and tissue paper.
11. Let dry overnight.
12. Trim any tissue paper hanging off the edge of your shape.
13. Slowly peel off the entire tissue paper design from the wax paper.
14. Hang your picture in a window so the sunlight shines through it.



Tips: The starch makes hands sticky, so keep a damp cloth nearby to clean them.



INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MEAT TRAYS

SONDRA SAYS:
"It's fun to watch these trays shrivel up and shrink."

Here's what you need before you begin:

assorted sizes and colors of clean Styrofoam meat trays (red and yellow work best)
markers or crayons
yarn
cookie sheet
pencil

Adult help:

Ask an adult to preheat the oven to 350 degrees. To reduce the risk of germs, adults should wash the meat trays in a mild bleach solution. Dry thoroughly.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Decorate your meat tray in a colorful design. Bright-colored crayons will produce a nice picture, while permanent markers give deeper colors.
2. Use a pencil to poke a hole in one end of the meat tray if you plan to make it into a necklace.
3. Place decorated meat trays on cookie sheet.
4. An adult should place it in the oven for 45–60 seconds. The meat trays will curl and then get flat and hard.
5. Remove from oven and place shrunken meat tray on counter to cool.
6. String a piece of yarn through hole to make a necklace.
7. Shrink several meat trays with a hole in each one. Use yarn to tie them to a branch for an instant wind chime.

Tips : Decorate Styrofoam cups and try shrinking them. You'll get cute mini-hat-shaped creations.

Want more craft ideas? Then read ***The Colossal Book of Crafts for Kids and Their Families****, Phyllis and Noel Fiarottl, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishing, 1997.*

QUILTED BOXES

SONDRA SAYS:
"I like looking at wallpaper sample books because there are so many colors and patterns."

Here's what you need before you begin:

wallpaper sample books
scissors
tray filled with water
assorted boxes
sponge

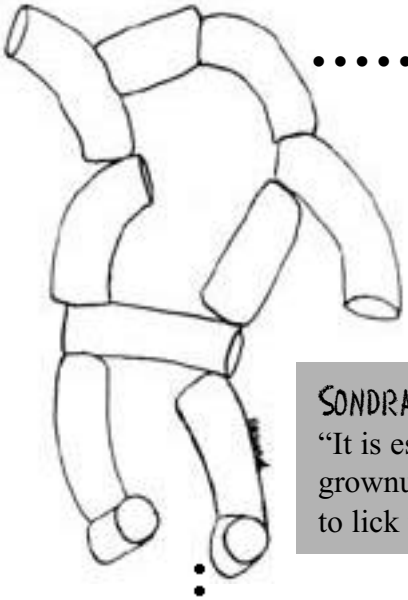
Adult help:

All adults have to do is admire your creative designs.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Soak several wallpaper pieces in water for 1 minute.
2. Shake off extra water.
3. Place wet wallpaper on box and use a sponge to smooth in place. The prepasted glue on the back of the wallpaper will stick on the box.
4. Once dry, the boxes are great to use as storage containers for hair clips, pencils, or craft items.

For large-scale fun, get a big appliance box and put it outside. Cover the box with pieces of wallpaper for a colorful fort.



LICK AND STICK

SONDRA SAYS:
"It is especially fun to watch grownups stick out their tongues to lick these packing peanuts."

Here's what you need before you begin:

biodegradable packing peanuts (The more you have, the larger your creation will be.)
washable markers (optional)

Adult help:

Sometimes these biodegradable packing peanuts are hard to find. Many postal service and packaging centers carry them. Have an adult ask for the packing peanuts made out of cornstarch. They look like regular Styrofoam packing peanuts but are much better for the environment. Stores carrying fragile items such as pottery or china receive their shipments packed in cornstarch packing peanuts. They will often give you bags of the peanuts for free.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Simply take a biodegradable packing peanut and give a section a quick lick with your tongue.
2. Attach another peanut to the damp spot. It will stick immediately to it!
3. Now let your imagination go wild and create forts, spaceships, or crazy clowns by licking and sticking the pieces together.
4. If you want, decorate your masterpiece with markers.

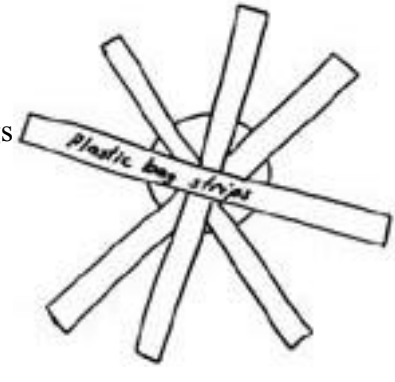
Tips: If you don't want to use your tongue to lick, simply touch the packing peanuts to a damp cloth. Either way, you'll have a great time making wonderful, lightweight creations.

GROCERY BAG GHOST

SONDRA SAYS:
"These ghosts can also be hung from a tree during Halloween."

Here's what you need before you begin:

two white whipped-topping lids (or other white lids)
black permanent marker
wiggle eyes (optional)
white plastic grocery bags
hole punch
craft glue
string
scissors

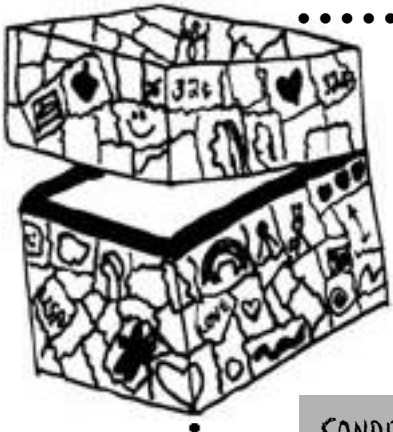


Adult help:

If your scissors are dull, it's sometimes hard to cut the plastic bags. Have an adult nearby if you use sharp scissors.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Punch a hole in both lids so that the holes line up when lids are put together.
2. Draw a ghost face on the top side of one of the white lids. Use wiggle eyes if you want.
3. Lay the bags on a table. Cut out any sections that have writing. Trim off the handles.
4. With scissors, cut bag into 2-inch-wide strips.
5. Place one lid face side down, and cover entire back of the lid with glue.
6. Pick up one piece of plastic strip and place the middle in the center of the glued lid. Do the same with 4–5 other strips, like the spokes of a wheel.
7. Add more glue over the lid.
8. Put 4–5 more strips over glue.
9. Take other lid and cover inside with glue. Make sure to glue the edge.
10. Put the two lids together and let dry overnight.
11. Attach a string to holes in lids.
12. Hold on to end of string and run as your ghost chases after you.



SECRET STORAGE BOXES

SONDRA SAYS:
"I liked spending time with my grandmother as we made one of these. It sure took a whole bunch of stamps!"

Here's what you need before you begin:

canceled stamps
glue
paint brush
assorted small boxes (those with lids work best)

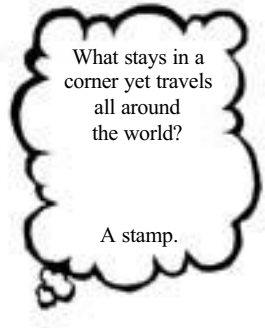
Adult help:

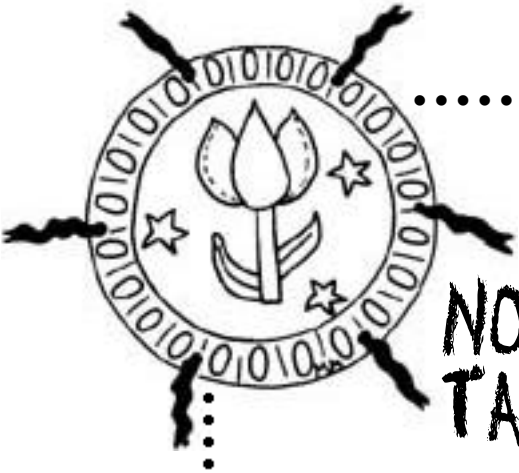
You might ask several teachers, friends, or other adults to collect stamps for you. It takes quite a few stamps to cover a box.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut out the stamps from old envelopes.
2. Glue the stamps on the box. Overlap stamps or make a pattern around the edge of the box with stamps that are the same.
3. After the box is covered, brush the glue over all the stamps. Don't worry that the glue is white, because it will dry clear.
4. For extra shine, apply another layer of glue when the first coat dries.

Tips : Cans also make great secret storage containers. Use peanut or potato chip cans with lids. You can save colorful candy wrappers and decorate your secret storage box with labels from your favorite candy.





NOISY TAMBOURINES

SONDRA SAYS:
"If you don't have aluminum pie plates, regular paper plates work just as well —except they are not as noisy."

Here's what you need before you begin:

two aluminum pie pans that are the same size
pieces of yarn or ribbon
dried beans
beads or buttons or sequins
glue
hole punch

Adult help:

Sometimes it's hard to punch holes through the aluminum pans. An adult can help you.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Punch 8–10 holes in edges of 2 aluminum pie pans. Make sure holes match up on both pans.
2. Place pans facing each other, rim to rim.
3. Slip a piece of yarn or ribbon between 2 holes and tie it shut.
4. Continue around the pan so only a few holes are left.
5. Add 1 tablespoon dried beans through the opening.
6. Tie rest of holes shut.
7. Decorate the top of your tambourine with beads, sequins, or buttons.
8. Let dry well.
9. Put on some lively music so you can start shaking your tambourine.

Hold the tambourine on the sides so you don't knock off the decorations.

PAINT AND TEAR

SONDRA SAYS:
"It's a funny feeling to tear up a picture that you just painted, but the pieces turn into a whole new art project."

Here's what you need before you begin:

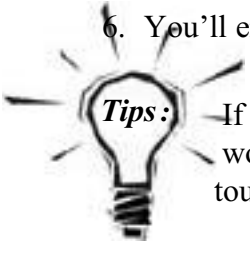
newspaper
construction paper
glue
watercolors
paint brushes
container of water
paper towels

Adult help:

All grownups need to do is admire your great masterpiece!

Follow these easy steps:

1. Place newspaper on your work surface.
2. Paint a picture with the watercolors. Bold designs work best.
3. Rinse and dry your paint brush after each color to give you the brightest picture.
4. After picture dries, carefully tear out sections, such as the petals of a flower or sections of a house.
5. Glue the torn pieces back together on a fresh piece of construction paper.
6. You'll end up with a three-dimensional picture.



Tips : If you accidentally tear in the wrong place, don't worry. When you glue it on the paper, you can touch it up with watercolors.

RISING COBRAS

SONDRA SAYS:
"When I was younger, I pretended this was my pet snake."

Here's what you need before you begin:

construction paper
scissors
paper clip
small magnet
popsicle stick
glue
crayons or markers
dinner plate

Adult help:

Don't get scared if you see this snake on your living room couch!

Follow these easy steps:

1. Trace around a dinner plate (placed on paper) to make your snake out of paper.
2. Use a marker and draw a spiral in the circle. The snake's "head" will be in the center of the circle.
3. Decorate the paper with crayons or markers. Add eyes and a tongue.
4. Cut along the spiral lines to make your snake. Attach a paper clip to the snake's "head."
5. Glue a small magnet to one end of a popsicle stick.
6. Hold the "magnet stick" close to the snake's "head." As you raise your stick, watch the snake rise in the air.

Tips : For a sturdier snake, decorate a paper plate and cut it in a spiral.

If you like snakes and other animals, check out the ***Ranger Rick*** *magazine available in most libraries or from National Wildlife Foundation, 1-800-588-1650.*

EMBOSSED HANDPRINTS

SONDRA SAYS:
"I like this craft because it gives me a good reason to get my hands all messy."

Here's what you need before you begin:

plain paper (light colored)
ink pad
embossing powder; (available at any craft store; silver or gold powder works best)
toaster
paper towels

Adult help:

An adult will need to be with you when you hold the embossing powder over the toaster.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Set out a plain piece of light-colored paper.
2. Here's the fun part. Put your hand on the ink pad. You'll have to make sure all parts of the bottom of your hand are covered with ink.
3. Press your ink-covered hand firmly on the paper.
4. This is where you must work fast. Sprinkle the embossing powder all over the ink handprint on the paper. If the ink dries, embossing powder will not stick.
5. Shake any extra powder back into the jar.
6. Turn on the toaster. With an adult nearby, hold your picture 1–2 inches above the toaster. Keep it there until the embossing powder bubbles and hardens. This only takes 10–15 seconds.
7. Your handprint should now be shiny and slightly raised. These make great pictures for parents. They like seeing your handprint on paper instead of on the wall!
8. Wash your hands with soap and water. Use a paper towel to dry in case a bit of ink is still on your hands.

Tips: A small jar of embossing powder lasts a long time. Just remember to always pour the extra powder back into the jar.

Bill Cosby has written some great books for children. His series of Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers is published by Scholastic Trade, 1997.

CREATIVE CRAWLING CREATURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"These bugs are so easy to make, you can make ten or more at a time."

Here's what you need before you begin:

10–15 plastic spoons
disposable container to mix the plaster (old margarine containers are great)
Half a cup water
permanent markers or assorted colors of paint
old newspapers to put underneath your work area
plaster of Paris
small pieces of yarn or embroidery floss

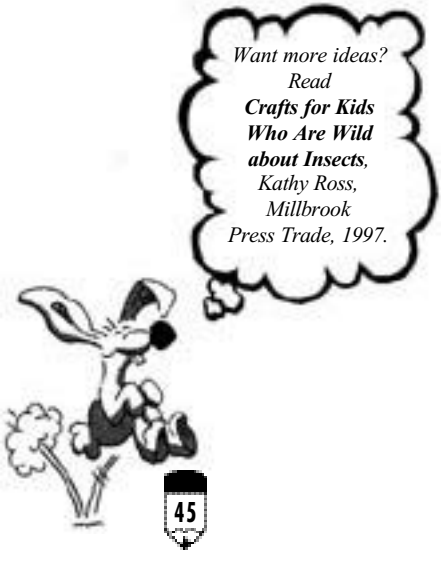
Adult help:

Ask an adult to buy plaster of Paris at a craft or home-improvement store. You don't need much. A little plaster makes a lot of bugs.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cover a table with old newspaper.
2. Lay out 10–15 plastic spoons.
3. Pour 1 cup plaster of Paris in a disposable container such as an empty margarine tub.
4. Add half a cup of water to the plaster of Paris. Stir until smooth. It should be like thick pudding. You may need to add a few drops of water to thin it out.
5. Gently pour plaster into the well of the plastic spoons.
6. Lay a 4-inch piece of yarn or embroidery floss in the tip of the spoon for your bug's antenna. (Curve the string so both ends stick out.)
7. Let the spoons dry overnight.
8. The next day, "pop" the bugs out of the spoons and decorate with permanent markers or paint.

Tips : Never pour unused plaster down the drain! If you have some wild colored nail polish (and your parent's permission), paint your bugs with the nail polish. They will turn out bright and shiny.



SQUISHY PAINT PICTURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"If you use bright-colored paint, the designs turn out best."

Here's what you need before you begin:

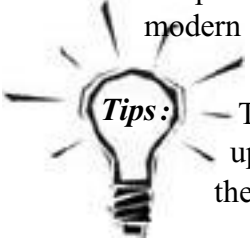
newspapers
construction paper
juice can lids
paints
glue

Adult help:

Ask an adult to help you save the tops and bottoms of juice can lids to use as your "squishers."

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay out newspapers on your work surface.
2. Place construction paper on table.
3. Put a "dab" (about half of a teaspoon) of paint on colored paper and press your "squisher" gently on the paint. It spreads to form a shiny circle of paint.
4. Add other colors of paint and squish them.
5. Try adding two colors of paint, one dab on top of the other. You'll get a multicolored design when you squish the paint.
6. Keep making squishy circles for a one-of-a-kind modern art painting.



Tips: To make your "squishers," glue a tightly wadded-up piece of paper the size of a cherry to the top of the juice lid. This forms an easy-to-grip handle.

SILLY SPOONS

SONDRA SAYS:
"Try making these spoons to look like your friends. See if they can guess which one looks like them."

Here's what you need before you begin:

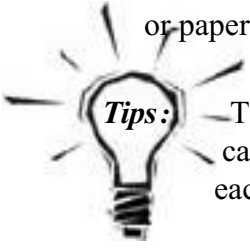
plastic spoons
markers
felt scraps
yarn
glue
sequins, beads, scrap paper (optional)
egg carton (optional)

Adult help:

You won't need any help from adults on this project. Why not surprise Mom and Dad and make a spoon puppet that looks like them?

Follow these easy steps:

1. Set out as many plastic spoons as you want to use for puppets.
2. Draw a face on the back of the spoon.
3. Add yarn for hair.
4. Use felt or paper scraps to make clothes.
5. Decorate clothes with sequins, markers, yarn, beads, or paper cutouts.



Tips: To store your spoon puppets, turn an empty egg carton upside down. Cut a small slit in the top of each egg section and insert the handle of the spoon.

CRAZY FACE NOISEMAKERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"This craft is great when you want a noisemaker for a birthday party or New Year's Party."

Here's what you need before you begin:

empty plastic soda bottle
old magazines
glue
scissors
scrap yarn or ribbon
dried beans
permanent markers

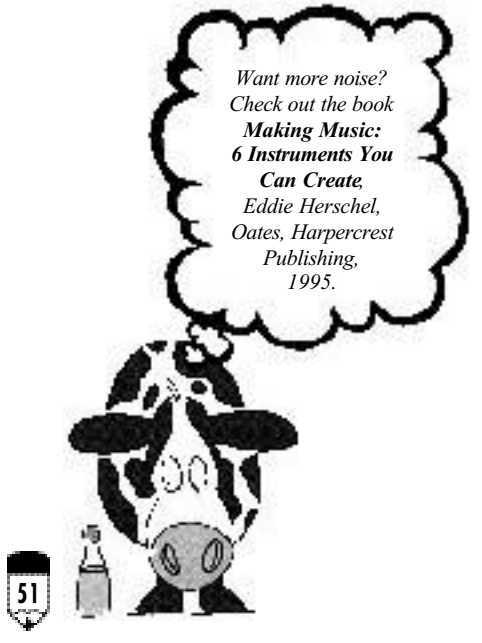
Adult help:

Tell an adult this project produces a noisy craft!

Follow these easy steps:

1. Wash and dry a plastic soda bottle and remove label.
2. Look through an old magazine and cut out a variety of eyes, a nose, and mouth to glue on the soda bottle. Try different combinations until you get the "crazy face" that you like.
3. After face is complete, add hair. Use cut-up magazine strips, yarn, or ribbon.
4. Use permanent marker to add eyelashes, freckles, etc.
5. Add 1 tablespoon of dried beans to the bottle and seal with the cap.
6. Put on some music and shake and dance with your crazy face.

Tips: Empty plastic milk cartons also work for these crazy face noisemakers. You'll just end up with a different shape.



GARDEN DELIGHT STEPPING STONE

SONDRA SAYS:
"These can be used in your garden or as decorations on your lawn."

Here's what you need before you begin:

small bag of mortar mix (available at home improvement stores)
old baking pan
assorted stones, twigs, shells, or marbles
old bucket

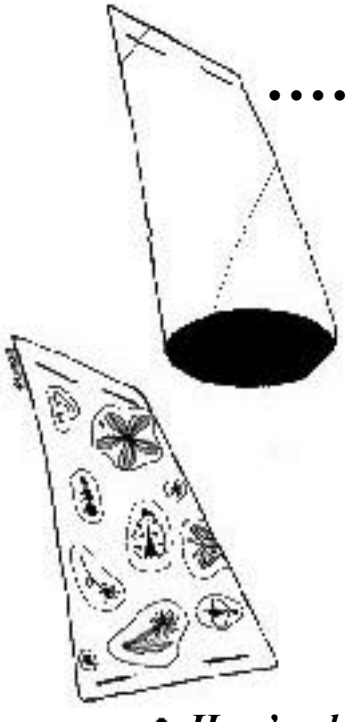
Adult help:

This is an easy craft to do, although it will help to have an adult nearby when you work with the mortar mix.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Mix the mortar mix with water in an old bucket, according to the directions on the package.
2. Pour mix into old baking pan. Let harden slightly.
3. Decorate your garden stepping stone with rocks, shells, or twigs.
4. If you want, use the end of a stick and write your name or something like "Grandma's Garden" in the mortar mix.
5. Let dry thoroughly.
6. Have an adult help you remove your stepping stone from the pan. Remember, this craft project is heavy.
7. Place your stepping stone in a garden or on a pathway.

Tips: To make cleanup easier, mix the mortar mix outside.



TWISTED SHAKERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"I like to put loud music on the stereo and have two shakers that I use when I dance."

Here's what you need before you begin:

- empty cardboard rolls from paper towels or wrapping paper
- glue
- stapler
- ribbons
- sequins
- stickers
- uncooked beans or popcorn

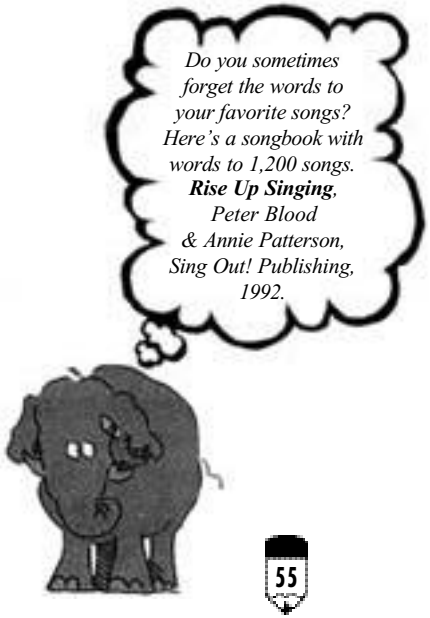
Adult help:

Sometimes it's hard to staple through the cardboard. An adult may need to help you.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut the cardboard tubes into various lengths, between 4 and 8 inches each.
2. Staple one end shut.
3. Add about 1 tablespoon uncooked beans or popcorn.
4. Here's the tricky part: "twist" the opposite, unstapled end a quarter turn so it is the opposite angle as the first side.
5. Staple that end shut.
6. Decorate your shaker with sequins, ribbons, stickers, and other fancy decorations.
7. Shake your shaker! These are very sturdy and last a long time.

Tips: If you are making these shakers with young children, tape the ends shut so they don't accidentally swallow any unpopped popcorn.



WACKY ROCK CREATURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"You've probably painted rocks before. Now put several painted rocks together for a more elaborate craft project."

Here's what you need before you begin:

assortment of smooth rocks
permanent markers or acrylic paints
tacky glue
small boards or heavy cardboard
yarn or scrap fabrics
newspaper

Adult help:

You shouldn't need any adult help. This is an easy project.

Follow these easy steps:

1. If you collected rocks from outside, make sure they are clean and dry.
2. Place newspaper on your work surface.
3. Spread out stones and look at their shapes and sizes.
4. Use the rocks to create people, animals, or space creatures. Attach smaller stones to make legs, arms, or beaks.
5. After you have designed your creature, paint each rock and let dry.
6. Glue the rocks onto the board or cardboard.
7. Use yarn and scrap fabrics to add hair and clothes.
8. Be careful not to drop this craft project on your toes!

Tips: Since the rocks are heavy, a board as the base works best. These pictures make a great paperweight.

STICKY STICKERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is one sticker that is easy to put on and take off a window."

Here's what you need before you begin:

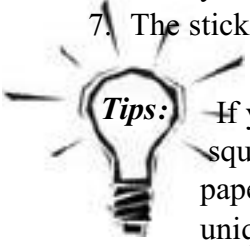
white glue
wax paper or aluminum foil
tempera paint
plastic spoon
squeeze bottle (optional)
disposable bowl

Adult help:

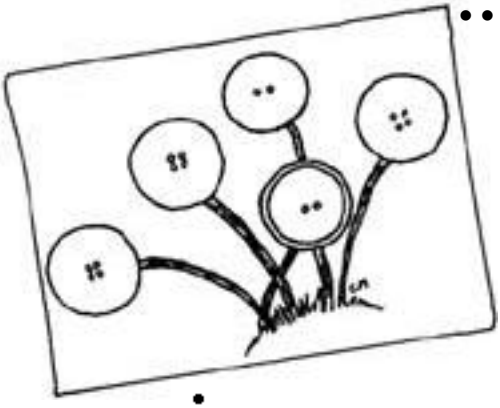
You can do this on your own. Adults can read the newspaper while you make these stickers.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Pour half a cup glue into a bowl.
2. Add one and a half tablespoons paint and stir well.
3. Using the plastic spoon, drip the glue mixture onto the wax paper. Make squiggles, your initials, or hearts.
4. If you have squeeze bottles, put the glue in the bottle and squeeze your designs on the wax paper.
5. Let dry overnight.
6. Gently remove your sticky sticker from the wax paper.
7. The stickers will attach to windows.



Tips: If you want to make three-dimensional pictures, squeeze the glue/paint mixture onto construction paper. You'll get shiny, raised designs that make unique greeting cards.



BEAUTIFUL BUTTON CARDS

SONDRA SAYS:
"My grandma has three big containers full of buttons I use. Maybe your grandmother has some also."

Here's what you need before you begin:

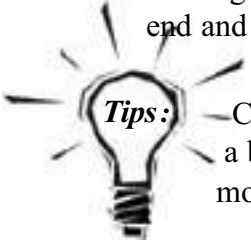
construction paper
glue
markers
scissors
buttons
scraps of ribbon or yarn
hole punch (optional)

Adult help:

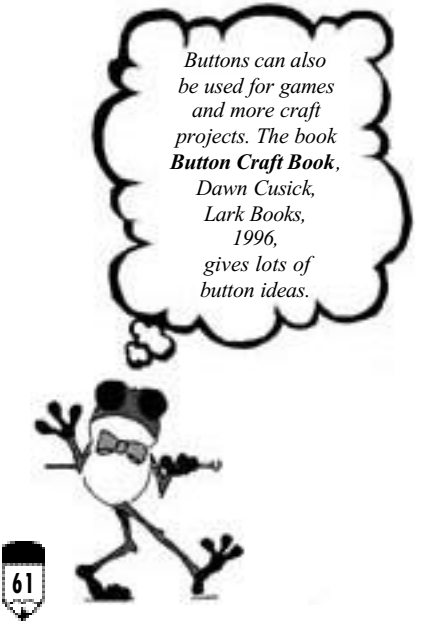
If young children are doing this craft, an adult should watch so they don't put buttons in their mouths.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut the construction paper to the size you want. You can make cards, gift tags, or pictures to frame.
2. Select 3–4 buttons and place them on the paper. Can you turn the buttons into flowers? How about drawing a clown and adding buttons for the nose and eyes?
3. Glue the buttons down and use markers to add details to your card.
4. Use scraps of ribbon or yarn to create flower stems, hair bows, or other additions to your button picture.
5. If using your picture as a gift card, punch a hole in one end and attach a ribbon to tie onto the present.



Tips: Check with the post office if you plan to mail a button card. The extra weight might require more postage.



STAINED GLASS ELEGANT VASES

SONDRA SAYS:
"These vases look pretty when you put them on a window sill so the light shines through."

Here's what you need before you begin:

plain glass jars
newspaper
small scraps of tissue paper
paint brushes
small disposable container
3 tablespoons white school glue

Adult help:

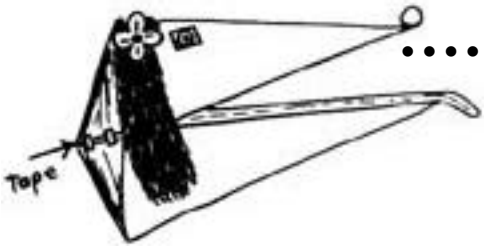
Ask an adult to help you find a glass container to use.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Place newspaper on table to catch glue drips.
2. Mix glue with 1 tablespoon water in a small container.
3. Cover half the jar with glue mixture (using paint brush).
4. Attach small scraps of tissue paper in a pattern or however you want. Overlap tissue pieces for extra colors.
5. Repeat the same thing on other side of jar.
6. When finished, cover the whole jar with another coating of glue.
7. Let dry overnight.
8. The next day, brush on one more coat of glue to give your vase extra shine.
9. Tie a wide ribbon or strip of paper around the top rim of your vase as extra decoration.
10. Fill your vase with pretty flowers and enjoy.

Tips : Don't worry when you brush on the glue and it is white. It dries clear and shiny.

For more fun with tissue paper, look at the ideas in the book ***Rose Windows and How to Make Them****, Helga Meyerbroker, Gryphon House, 1994*

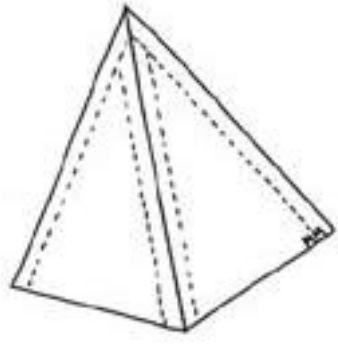


POINTED PUPPETS

SONDRA SAYS:
"These puppets sound complicated to make, but they are very easy and last a long time."

Here's what you need before you begin:

cardboard
scissors
glue
fabric
scrap paper
adhesive-backed paper (optional)
wiggle eyes or buttons
duct tape



Adult help:

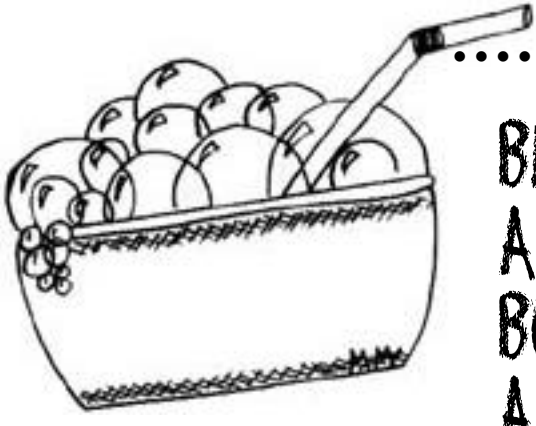
If using heavy cardboard, ask an adult to help with the cutting.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut 6 triangle shapes out of cardboard, 8 inches at the base and 9 inches from base to the point (size can be approximate).
2. Tape 3 triangles together on the sides with duct tape.
3. Tape the other 3 triangles together with duct tape.
4. You should now have 2 separate cardboard pyramid-shaped pieces.
5. Simply use duct tape to attach the 2 pyramids on one bottom edge. This forms the finished shape for your pointed puppets.
6. Decorate your puppet with adhesive-backed paper or fabric.
7. Add eyes, hair, or tonsils with scraps of paper and cloth.
8. To make using the puppet easier, attach two fabric strips to the inside mouth. This gives support to your hand when you open and close the mouth.

Tips: Don't worry about the exact size of your cardboard. As long as all 6 pieces are the same size, the puppet will turn out fine.

If you want a free catalog of craft supplies, order from Craft Catalog, Box 1069, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.



BRIGHT AND BUBBLY ART

SONDRA SAYS:
"I like blowing the bubbles best. You can blow large and small bubbles for your picture."

Here's what you need before you begin:

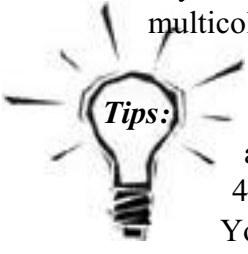
tempera paint (powdered)
liquid dishwashing detergent
straws
small shallow bowls
paper
newspaper

Adult help:

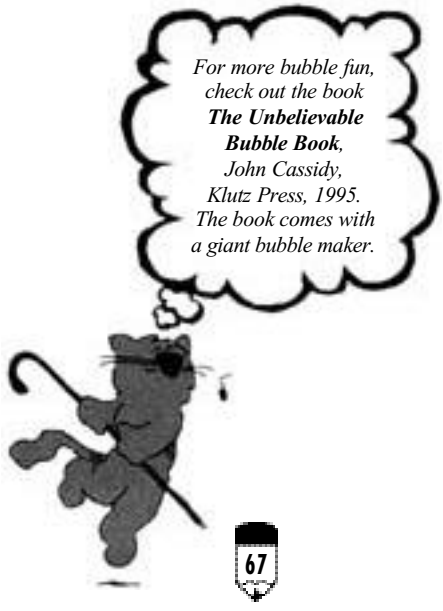
This is an easy activity that doesn't require any adult help.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Place newspaper on table to absorb any spills.
2. Pour about 1 inch of water in a small shallow bowl. Add 1 tablespoon powdered tempera paint and 5 tablespoons liquid detergent. Stir well.
3. Using a straw, blow gently (don't suck) until bubbles come over the top of the bowl.
4. Carefully place a sheet of paper on top of the bubbles. They will pop and create wonderful circular patterns on the paper.
5. Try several bowls with different colors to make multicolored designs.



Tips: If paint bubbles appear too light on the paper, add a bit more paint. For lots of bubbles, tape 4–5 straws together for a giant bubble blower. You can also make bubble pictures by mixing paint into a bubble-blowing solution.

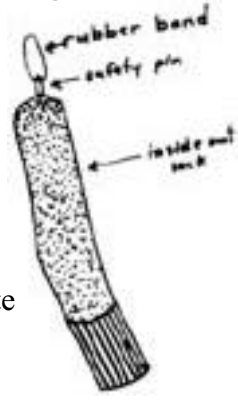


BIG MOUTH PUPPETS

SONDRA SAYS:
"When I make these puppets, I pretend they are opera singers and sing songs with very high pitched voices."

Here's what you need before you begin:

- old sock
- rubber band
- safety pin
- scraps of felt, buttons, ribbons, etc.
- fabric glue or hot glue gun (optional)



Adult help:

If you decide to use hot glue to decorate your puppet, have an adult help.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Turn a sock inside out.
2. Slip a rubber band into a safety pin.
3. Attach the safety pin to the tip of the toe.
4. Slip your hand into the rubber band and turn the sock right side out. The rubber band helps pull in the "mouth" of your puppet.
5. Decorate your big mouth puppet with felt or buttons for eyes and yarn or ribbon for the hair.
6. Open and close your fingers to make your puppet talk or sing.

Make sure glue is dry before you start using your puppet. Otherwise you might end up with a one-eyed puppet.

LUMPY BUMPY BODIES

SONDRA SAYS:
"These sculptures are almost like looking in a mirror—except you are not as lumpy!"

Here's what you need before you begin:

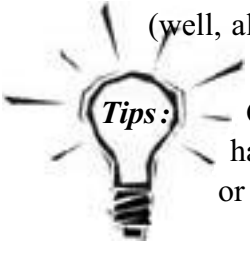
large sheets of newsprint or butcher paper
stapler
scissors
markers and/or paints
newspaper

Adult help:

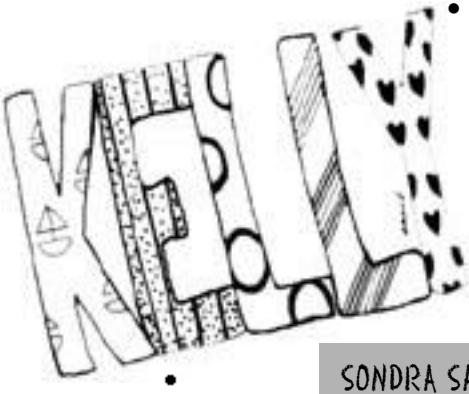
It is easiest if an adult traces around your body. You can do the rest.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lie down on a large piece of newsprint. Get in an interesting position such as with your arms raised or leg turned sideways.
2. Ask an adult or friend to trace around the outside of your body.
3. Cut out your body shape, leaving an extra 2 inches around the edges.
4. Place this shape over another large piece of newsprint.
5. Trace and cut so you have 2 identical pieces of your body shape.
6. Color or paint details on the paper so it looks like you. Color in your eyes, hair, and clothes. If using paint, make sure it dries before you begin stapling.
7. Staple the two pieces together, leaving an opening along one side.
8. Gently stuff newspaper into the arms, legs, body, and head of your sculpture.
9. Staple the opening close.
10. You now have a twin that looks just like you (well, almost)!



Tips: Call your local newspaper office and ask if they have end rolls of newsprint. These are usually free or very inexpensive.



NAME CARD

SONDRA SAYS:
"Make one of these name cards to hang on your bedroom door."

Here's what you need before you begin:

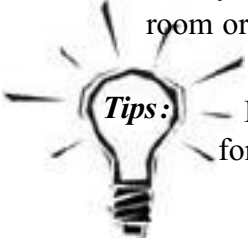
construction paper
crayons or markers
scissors
ruler

Adult help:

No adult help needed. All you do is color and cut.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut a piece of construction paper about 3 inches by 11 inches.
2. Print your name very neatly on the paper. (see example). Make sure the letters touch each other.
3. Use a ruler to make straight, even letters.
4. Color the letters of your name. Make it fancy by using stripes or dots on each letter.
5. Don't forget to color in the background around each of the letters.
6. Cut out the "extra" space around each letter on the top.
7. Now you have a fancy sign to put on the door of your room or stick on your bulletin board.



Tips: Light, colored paper gives the best background for your fancy name design.

If you like cutting shapes out of paper, try ***Easy to Make Decorative Paper Snowflakes****, Brenda Lee Road, Dover Publishing, 1987.*

FLOWER SMASH

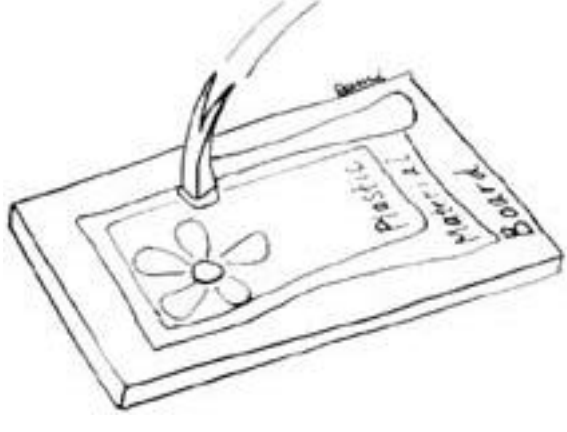
SONDRA SAYS:
"You'll be amazed at how the color of the flowers transfers over to the material."

Here's what you need before you begin:

- wooden board
- white cotton material (old T-shirts work well)
- hammer
- clear plastic bag
- frame or embroidery hoop
- fresh flowers
- leaves
- scissors

Adult help:

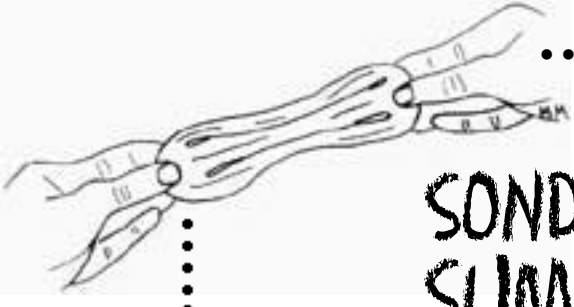
Young children will need some help hammering the flowers.



Follow these easy steps:

1. Place white material on a smooth wooden board.
2. Lay a flower upside down on the material.
3. Cover flower with clear plastic bag. This helps you see where the flower is, so you can "smash" it.
4. Use the hammer to hit the flower 6–7 times.
5. Remove plastic bag and scrape off the excess flowers from the material.
6. Repeat with several different flowers and leaves for a variety of colors and shapes.
7. After you have a design you like, trim the material to fit the frame or embroidery hoop.
8. Display and enjoy the sight of colorful flowers all year long.

Tips: Experiment on a scrap of fabric to see which flowers work best. Pansies and poppies produce very bright patterns.



SONDRA'S SLIMY GOOP

SONDRA SAYS:
"What's great about this goop is you can keep it for weeks in a plastic bag in the refrigerator and play with it over and over again."

Here's what you need before you begin:

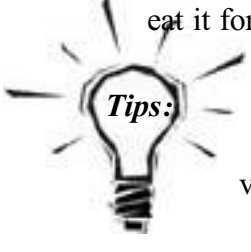
Two mixing bowls
8 ounces Elmer's Glue® (must use Elmer's)
set of measuring spoons
food coloring
spoon for stirring
1 tablespoon Boraxo

Adult help:

Ask an adult to purchase a box of Boraxo. This is found in the laundry detergent section of the grocery store. After you use what you need, the rest of the Boraxo can be used to get your dirty socks extra clean! Adults might also want to help you get the very hot water you need to mix with the Boraxo.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Mix 1 cup cold water and 8 ounces Elmer's Glue in a mixing bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, mix 1 tablespoon Boraxo with half a cup very hot water (not boiling). Stir well.
3. If you want, add a few drops of food coloring to the Boraxo and water mixture.
4. Add this hot water mixture slowly to the glue and water. Stir a few seconds with a spoon.
5. Here's the fun part. Using your hands, reach into the bowl and mix everything together. In just a short time, you will have a wonderful, gooey, nonsticky, stretchy substance.
6. After you play with Sondra's slimy goop, store it in a reclosable plastic bag or covered container in the refrigerator. Just make sure your brother doesn't try to eat it for lunch!



Tips: The key to this recipe is making sure the Boraxo dissolves completely in the water. Use very hot water, but not boiling.

SNOW DOMES

SONDRA SAYS:
"If you make several of these, you can have a whole snow village."

Here's what you need before you begin:

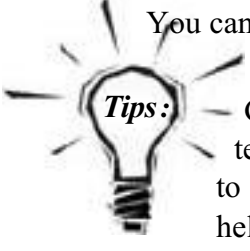
empty jar with lid (such as a pickle jar or a baby food jar)
super glue or hot glue
small figurines (fast food toys work well)
glitter
glycerin (optional)

Adult help:

Let an adult use the super glue or hot glue to attach the figurines to the jar lid.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Remove labels from jar.
2. On the underneath side of the lid, glue several small plastic figurines with super glue. You can use plastic animals, marbles, or small stones.
3. Let glue dry.
4. Fill jar with cold water (warm water gets cloudy).
5. Add half a teaspoon of glitter.
6. Add glycerin to water (optional).
7. Spread glue around top of jar.
8. Quickly place lid over jar and tighten.
9. Let dry overnight.
10. Tip your jar over and admire your sparkly snow scene. You can paint the lid, but most of it seldom shows.



Glycerin is found in your drug store. When 1/2 teaspoon is added to the water, it causes the glitter to fall slowly over your snow scene. Glycerin also helps moisten your hands if you've been playing in real snow.

FLUTTERY FAN FUN

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is good craft to do on a hot day, because the fan cools you while you're working."

Here's what you need before you begin:

large section of adhesive-backed paper
1 fan
assorted scraps of lightweight items such as Christmas tinsel, yarn, ribbon pieces, tissue, etc.

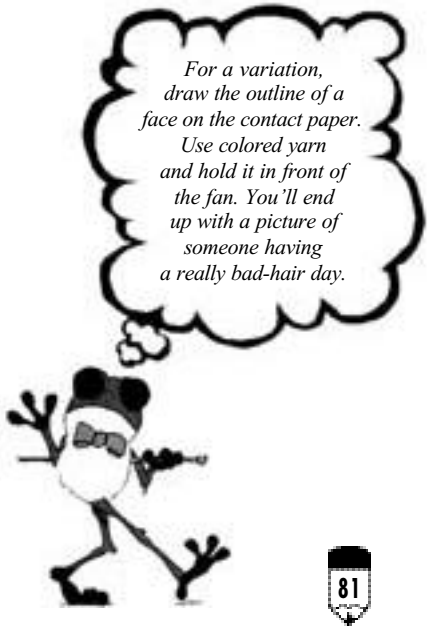
Adult help:

Ask an adult to help you plug in the fan. Never put your fingers near the spinning fan blade.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Place a piece of adhesive-backed paper, sticky side *out*, on an easel or attach to wall.
2. Place the fan 2–3 feet in front of the sticky paper.
3. Turn on fan.
4. Hold a strip of yarn or paper in front of the fan and . . . let go!
5. The "wind" pushes your item onto the sticky contact paper. You'll have a wild, wind-blown collage.

Tips: You'll need to adjust the distance of the fan from the paper, depending on the force of the fan.



WIGGLY, WAVING SCULPTURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"You can take any ordinary picture, cut it out, and make it special by adding brads."

Here's what you need before you begin:

construction paper
scissors
glue
markers
wiggle eyes (optional)
paper brads

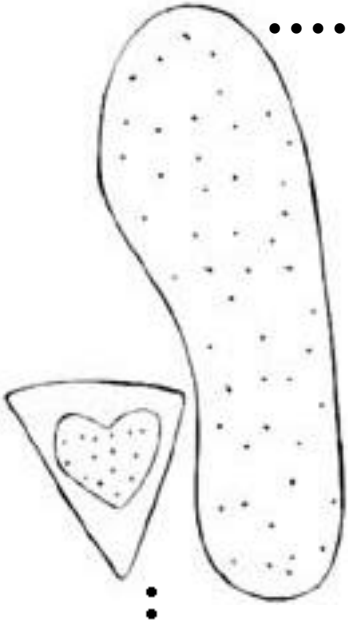
Adult help:

Ask an adult to help you find or buy brads. These are prong paper fasteners available in any store that sells staples or paper clips. Brads are very small, so keep them away from young children.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Think about what you want to make. You can draw a person's body, circles for a caterpillar, or the half-shell shape of an egg.
2. Cut shape out of construction paper.
3. Make arms, legs, or other parts to your design. If you made a body, you'll need to cut out 2 arms and legs. If you made an egg shell, you'll need to make a baby chicken.
4. Attach your paper parts with the brads. This makes a person with moveable arms and legs or a chicken "hatching" from the egg.
5. Decorate with markers and add wiggle eyes if you want to.

Tips: Heavy construction paper works best because it's more durable where the brad is attached.

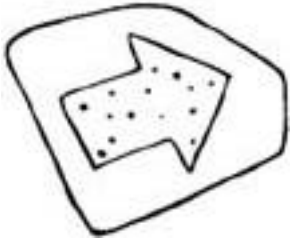


INNERSOLE STAMPS

SONDRA SAYS:
"These stamps cost much less than if you bought them at the store."

Here's what you need before you begin:

scissors
pen or pencil
ink pad
foam innersoles
small pieces of scrap wood
glue

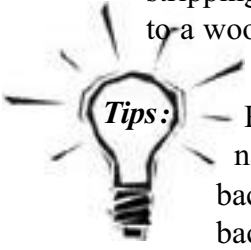


Adult help:

Purchase an inexpensive pair of foam innersoles. Many "Dollar Only" stores carry them. Most children's scissors can cut through the foam. Have an adult help you if you plan to use extrasharp scissors.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Use a pen or pencil to draw a design on the foam innersole. Simple shapes work best, such as hearts or rainbows.
2. Cut out the design.
3. Glue cut innersole piece to scrap of wood. Let dry.
4. Use your handmade stamp to decorate cards, stationery, or your lunch bags.
5. If you can't get a foam innersole, see if an adult can find a scrap piece of foam double-backed weather stripping. The weather stripping is easy to cut, attaches to a wood block, and stamps well.



Remember: if you want to make a stamp of your name, the letters on the stamp must be cut out backwards. If you don't, your name will be backwards when you stamp it on the paper.

SWIRLY PAPER

SONDRA SAYS:
"This paper is perfect for wrapping small presents."

Here's what you need before you begin:

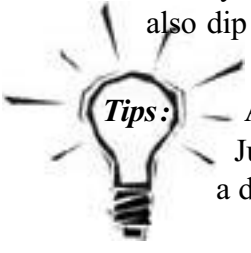
any color tempera paint
liquid starch
distilled water
comb or fork
plain paper
square casserole or baking pan
old newspapers
disposable container

Adult help:

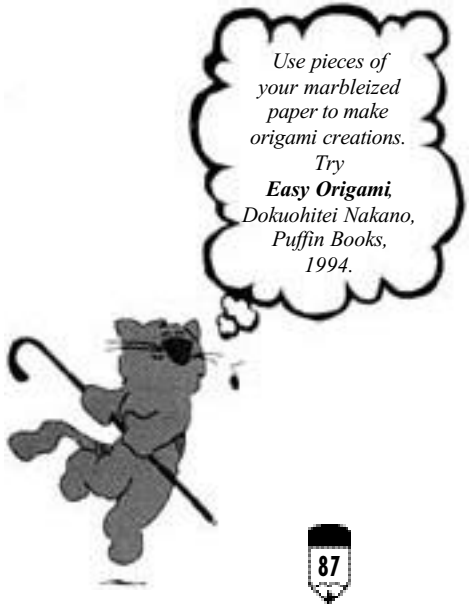
If there isn't any liquid laundry starch or distilled water in your house, ask an adult to buy some.

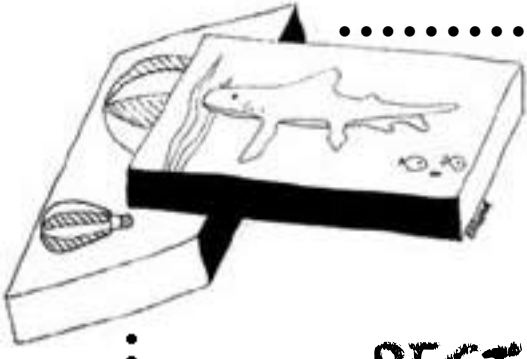
Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay several pieces of newspaper on a smooth surface.
2. Mix 1 tablespoon paint and 1 tablespoon distilled water in a small container until it is smooth and "creamy."
3. Pour half an inch of liquid starch in a baking dish.
4. Dribble mixture of paint and water over starch.
5. Carefully swirl the paint with a fork or a wide-toothed comb.
6. Gently place a piece of paper on top of the starch for 5–10 seconds. The swirled paint will attach to the paper.
7. Remove marbleized paper and let dry on newspapers.
8. Use dyed paper for stationery, or book covers. You can also dip cardboard frames.



Tips: Add a second or third color paint if you like. Just remember to swirl the paint gently to get a distinct pattern.





BEST-SELLING CASSETTES

SONDRA SAYS:
"I like making these because it makes people happy when they see the special case and then also get a tape."

Here's what you need before you begin:

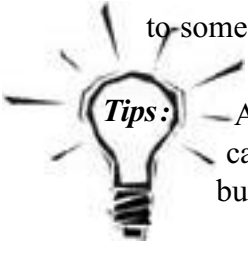
clear cassette case
cassette tape
acrylic paints or permanent markers
tape recorder
pencil

Adult help:

An adult may need to help you record the tape.

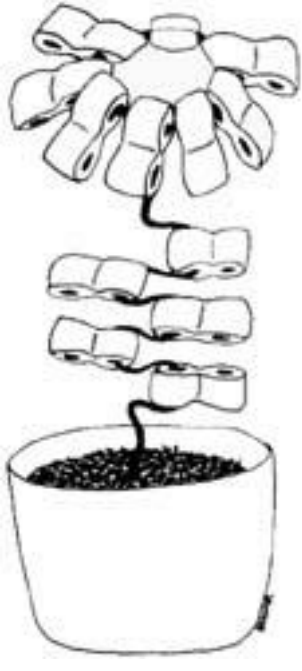
Follow these easy steps:

1. Remove any wrapping label or stickers from the cassette case.
2. Lightly sketch a design on the case. If the tape will be for someone's birthday, you might draw balloons and write the person's name. If the tape is for a holiday gift, sketch a snowman or winter scene.
3. Fill in the drawings using acrylic paint or any permanent markers.
4. While paint dries, you can record your tape.
5. Sing a song to your grandmother, read a story to a friend, or just share what you've been doing.
6. When the tape is complete, and the case is dry, give it to someone as a special gift.



Ask an adult for an old cassette tape you can use to record yourself. Then you don't need to buy a new one, as long as you have a clear case.

You could also decorate the cassette case by using a set of stencils called ***Fun with Musical Instrument Stencils****, Paul Kennedy, Dover Publications, 1993.*



SOFT AND SQUISHY SCULPTURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a quick, easy, and nonmessy craft to do."

Here's what you need before you begin:

chenille stems
Styrofoam packing "peanuts"
ribbon or yarn
markers

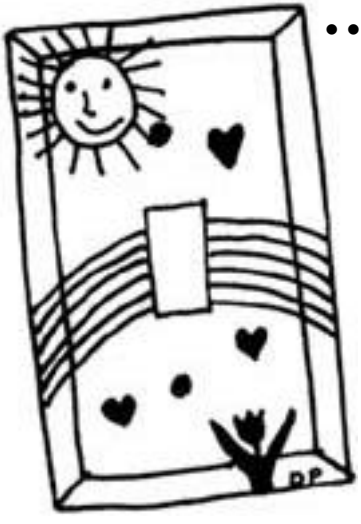
Adult help:

You should be able to do this on your own.
Cleanup is especially easy to do.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Let your imagination run loose with this project.
2. Take a chenille stem and poke it through the Styrofoam peanuts. Any size peanuts work.
3. Every sculpture is different, depending on your shape of peanut and length of chenille stem. For example:
4. String packing peanuts on 2 separate pieces of chenille stems.
5. Leave about 1 inch empty on each end of the chenille stem.
6. Connect the 2 pieces of chenille by twisting the ends together. It looks like you made a circle.
7. Bend into a heart shape. Decorate with a few red ribbons for a Valentine's present.
8. Make other sculptures with the wire and peanuts. Try making bracelets, necklaces, or wreaths.
9. When you're done with the sculpture, decorate the peanuts with markers.

Tips: *Gently* poke the chenille stem into the packing peanuts, or else they will crack.



DESIGNER LIGHT SWITCH COVERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"Instead of having an ordinary light switch in your room, you can make a personalized one."

Here's what you need before you begin:

plain-colored plastic light switch covers
(These can be purchased for about 15 cents each at home improvement stores, or use the one you have in your room now.)
permanent markers or acrylic paints
stickers
stamps
photographs
screwdriver

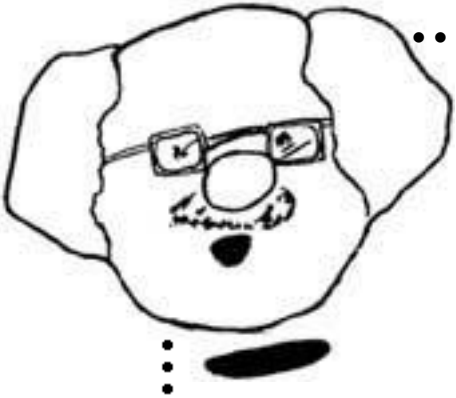
Adult help:

Ask an adult if you can remove the light switch cover from your bedroom. Keep the loose screws in a safe place.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Think about how you want your light switch to look.
2. You could decorate it with paints or markers. Maybe you'd like to glue small pictures of your friends on it. How about adding some stickers or shiny stars?
3. If using paint, make sure it is dry before you put the light plate back on the wall.

Tips: Because new light switch covers are inexpensive, this makes a great activity for birthday parties.

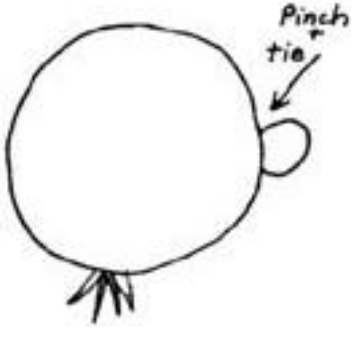


GROUCH AND GRIN FACES

SONDRA SAYS:
"My friend Alison and I got carried away making these. We made ten grouch and grin faces in one hour."

Here's what you need before you begin:

old nylon stockings
thread
rubber bands
batting or cotton balls
scissors
wiggle eyes
permanent markers
glue
yarn



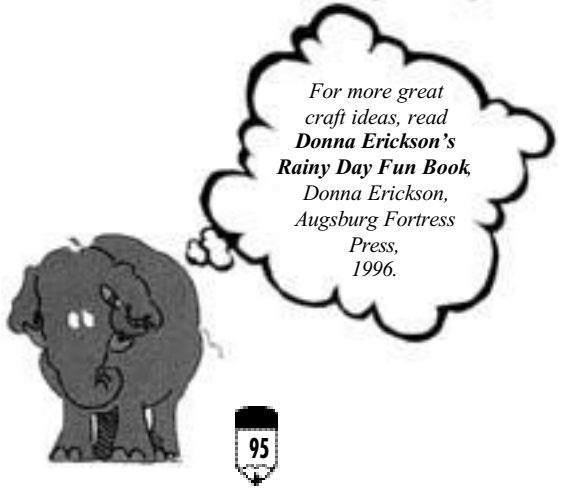
Adult help:

Sometimes it's hard to pinch the "nose" and tie it at the same time. An adult can help you.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Cut the leg of an old pantyhose stocking into sections 6–7 inches long.
2. Take one section of stocking and tie the end shut with thread or a rubber band.
3. Turn inside out.
4. Stuff stocking with batting or cotton balls.
5. Tie top shut with thick thread. (This may be where an adult helps.)
6. Pinch a small section of the stocking and batting to form a "nose." Wrap and tie thread around base of nose. (Again, an adult may need to help here.)
7. Glue on wiggle eyes or draw eyes with your permanent marker.
8. Draw a mouth, ears, or even a mustache.
9. Use extra batting or yarn to glue on hair or beards.
10. You'll be amazed how every one of these faces turns out completely different.

Tips: You can get different colors of skin for your face depending on how much batting you use. The more you stretch the stocking, the lighter the skin becomes.



COASTER TILES

SONDRA SAYS:
"Make a set of these tiles and give them away as a practical gift. (You know how adults like *practical* gifts.)"

Here's what you need before you begin:

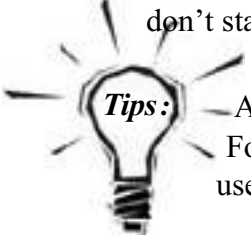
ceramic tile (plain colors work best)
permanent markers or acrylic paints
felt
scissors
glue
clear adhesive-backed paper

Adult help:

See if an adult can find a few plain ceramic tiles around the house. If not, they are available at any home improvement store for a low cost.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay out 3–4 tiles for your set of coasters.
2. Using the permanent markers, draw a design on each tile.
3. Cut a piece of clear adhesive-backed paper and cover the tile completely.
4. Glue felt to tile, covering the adhesive paper on the bottom.
5. Use your coasters to put under glasses and cups so you don't stain the furniture.



Tips: Acrylic paints also work for the coasters. For best results, let each color dry before you use the next color.

EXTRA SMELLY POTPOURRI

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a good way to recycle the fabric softener sheets that have been used to make your clothes smell fresh."

Here's what you need before you begin:

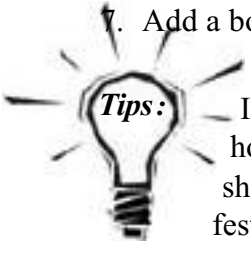
used fabric softener sheets
thin ribbon
potpourri
scissors
nylon net (a quarter yard makes 5–6 potpourri holders)

Adult help:

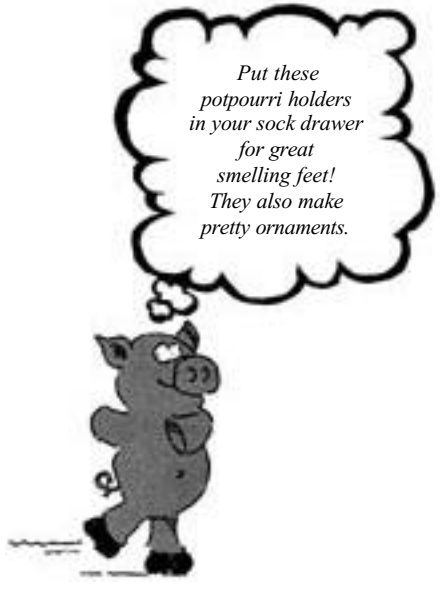
Ask an adult to save the fabric softener sheets after doing the laundry.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lay out a section of nylon net on a flat surface.
2. Place a used fabric softener sheet on top of the nylon net.
3. Cut nylon net so it is the same size as the fabric softener sheet.
4. Scoop 1 tablespoon of potpourri in center of fabric softener sheet.
5. Carefully gather the edges of both fabrics together to create a small pouch, with the potpourri in the middle.
6. Tie firmly with thin ribbon.
7. Add a bow if you want.



Tips : If you don't have nylon net, these potpourri holders can simply be wrapped in the dryer sheets. Nylon net gives them color and a more festive appearance.



FLOWERPOT CHARACTERS

SONDRA SAYS:
"You'd be amazed at the types of animals and people you can make from these flower pots."

Here's what you need before you begin:

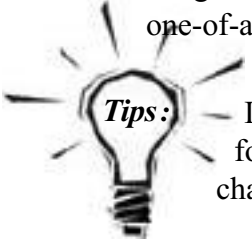
2 small clay flowerpots
acrylic paint
paint brushes
assorted craft odds and ends such as pipe cleaners, felt scraps, buttons, etc.
1–2-inch Styrofoam ball
hot glue gun
craft glue

Adult help:

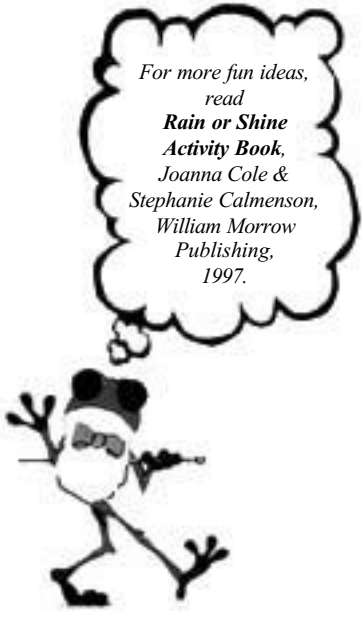
Have an adult use a hot glue gun to glue the two flowerpots together, rim to rim.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Glue the Styrofoam ball on the top of the flowerpots.
2. Paint the flowerpots a solid color, or leave natural, depending on your character.
3. Create a face on the Styrofoam ball using your scrap materials.
4. Add details to your character by painting on clothes or hair.
5. Embellish even more by using pipe cleaners for wings or arms. Let your imagination help you create a one-of-a-kind character.



If clay flowerpots are unavailable, use two foam cups glued rim to rim. These lightweight characters can also be used as tree ornaments.



BIRDHOUSE BOOTS

SONDRA SAYS:
"This birdhouse is so cute, you'll want to hang it in your bedroom."

Here's what you need before you begin:

rubber rain boots, any size or color (Boots should be without buckles or snaps. Ask your parents if you can use ones you've outgrown.)
assorted acrylic paint
paint brushes
2 pieces of wood about 7-1/2 inches × 5 inches
staple gun
screwdriver
2 screws
1 eye hook
waterproof sealer (optional)
popsicle stick or doweling

Adult help:

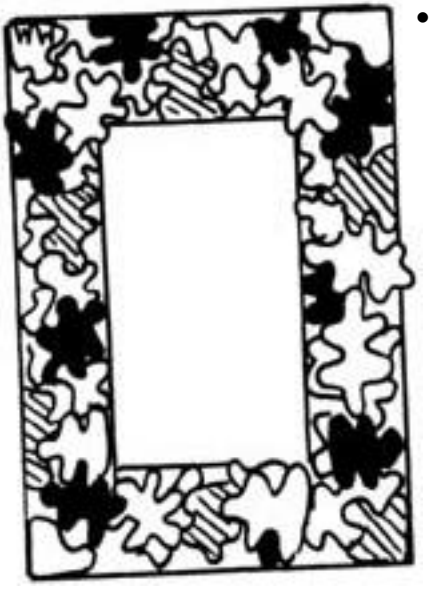
An adult needs to cut a hole 1-1/ 2 inches–2 inches in diameter about 2 inches from top of boot. Utility knife or sharp scissors work well. One inch below the hole, make a slit and insert a popsicle stick or small piece of doweling for the bird perch. With the boot upright, staple each piece of wood to the side of the boot. Bring top pieces of wood together and secure with two screws at top. You just made the roof. Insert eye hook for easy hanging.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Once the adult has done the hard work, you get to decorate your birdhouse boot!
2. Use the paints to decorate the boot however you want.
3. If you plan to hang the boot outside, spray it with a waterproof sealer.

Tips: This is the most complicated craft in the book, but the end result is worth the extra effort.

It's fun to watch birds come to your yard. For more information, read ***Backyard Birds of Summer****, Carol Lerner, William Morrow and Co., 1996, or* ***Extremely Weird Birds****, Sarah Lovett & Mary Sundstrom, John Muir Publications, 1996.*



PUZZLE PIECE PICTURES

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a good way to use your puzzles that have missing pieces."

Here's what you need before you begin:

puzzle pieces you can't use anymore
glue
cardboard frame or plastic coffee can lid
assorted colors of paint
newspaper
spray paint (optional)

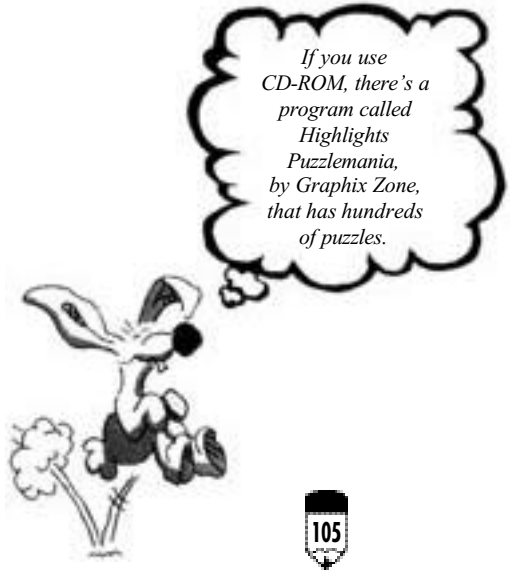
Adult help:

If you don't have a cardboard frame, ask an adult to cut a square or circle out of the center of the coffee can lid. The lid is the basis for your frame.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Spread out the puzzle pieces on newspaper. Paint each piece a solid color. For the easiest method, go outside and have an adult spray paint the pieces.
2. Let paint dry.
3. Here's your chance to be creative. Select a contrasting color paint and decorate each puzzle piece. Try polka dots or squiggly lines.
4. After paint has dried, glue puzzle pieces in a random pattern on your frame.
5. Use the frame to display a picture of your friends or a drawing you made.

Tips: Painted puzzle pieces can be used to decorate your hair clips, boxes, and cards. If you are in a hurry, glue puzzle pieces directly onto a frame without painting them first.



Now
for some
yummy stuff
to make
and eat.

The next craft projects
are just a little
different . . .
They involve food,
so you get to eat
what you make!

MINI S'MORES

SONDRA SAYS:
"This isn't an actual craft, but it tastes so good I wanted to add it to the book. These are fun to make on a rainy day."

Here's what you need before you begin:

graham crackers
chocolate chips
mini-marshmallows
candle
matches
toothpick or uncooked spaghetti

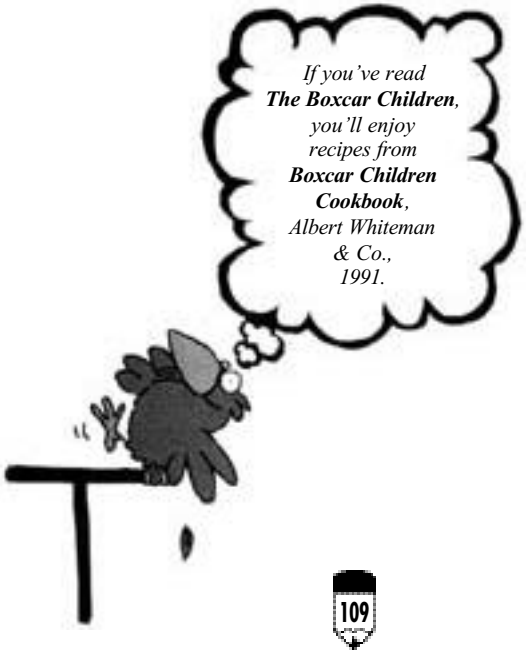
Adult help:

Since you are using a candle, make sure an adult lights the match and stays with you while the candle is lit.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Break the graham crackers into pieces about 1 inch square.
2. Melt half a cup of chocolate chips in the microwave.
3. Spread the softened chocolate on the graham cracker.
4. Place a miniature marshmallow on the end of your toothpick.
5. Have an adult light the candle.
6. Carefully "roast" your marshmallow over the candle flame.
7. When the marshmallow is golden brown, place it on the chocolate graham cracker.
8. Enjoy your mini s'more!

Tips : If you want a longer roasting stick, put the marshmallow on the end of a piece of uncooked spaghetti.



CANDY CREATIONS

SONDRA SAYS:
"It's tempting to eat the candy while you're making these little candy houses."

Here's what you need before you begin:

graham crackers
assorted candies, licorice, or cereal
decorating frosting
small boxes or milk cartons (school size)
butter knife or popsicle stick for spreading
clear varnish (optional)

Adult help:

You'll need an electric mixer to make the decorating frosting, so make sure an adult is nearby.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Take a small box such as a school-size milk carton and cover the sides with frosting. This forms the "base" for your candy creation.
2. Place graham crackers around the box, cutting them gently to fit.
3. Using the frosting as glue, add more graham crackers to make a roof.
4. Here's the fun part. Decorate your house with candy, licorice strips, or colorful pieces of cereal.
5. These houses can be eaten or sprayed with a clear varnish to use for a permanent display.

Dye the frosting green to make leprechaun houses. On Halloween, make haunted houses with crooked doors and walls.

Cement Frosting

Beat 2 egg whites, 3 Tbls. meringue powder, and 6 Tbls. warm water in a large bowl. Add one 16 oz. package sifted powdered sugar, 1 Tbls. vanilla and 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar. Beat with electric mixer for 7–10 minutes. Keep covered or use immediately. Guaranteed to "glue on" any candy!

PARTY POPCORN HANDS

SONDRA SAYS:
"This is a fun way to serve and eat an ordinary snack."

Here's what you need before you begin:

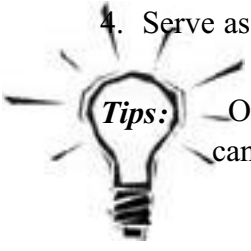
thin, clear plastic gloves worn by deli workers
red jelly beans or candy
small pieces of string or yarn
popcorn

Adult help:

With an adult's help, pop some popcorn.

Follow these easy steps:

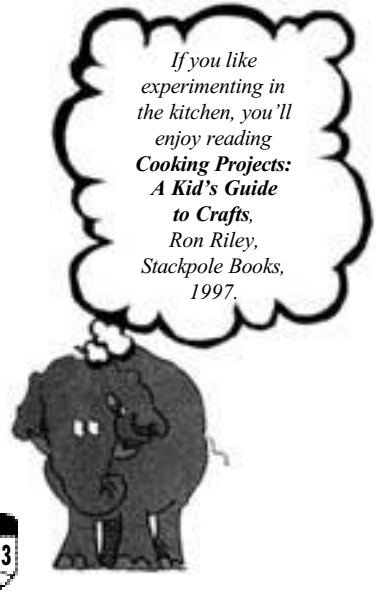
1. Place a red jelly bean in each finger of the glove as a "fingernail."
2. Fill glove with popcorn, making sure to fill each finger.
3. Tie the top of the glove shut with string.
4. Serve as a fun snack to your family and friends.

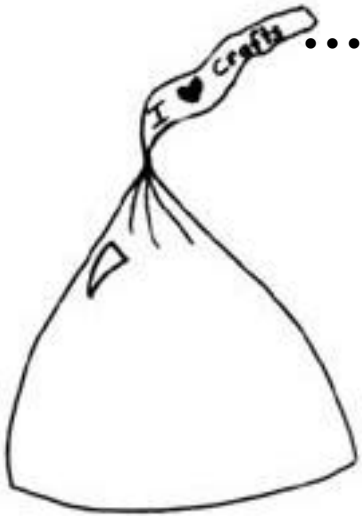


Tips: On Halloween, fill each fingertip with black candy to look like a spooky witch's hand.

A few more tips:

Since you made some popcorn, here are some ways to change the taste. Instead of plain salt and butter, sprinkle some parmesan cheese on the popcorn. For a spicier taste, try a taco seasoning. In Europe, many people sprinkle their popcorn with sugar. Try it!





GIANT KISSES

SONDRA SAYS:
"These are fun to make and one of the few craft projects that you can eat."

Here's what you need before you begin:

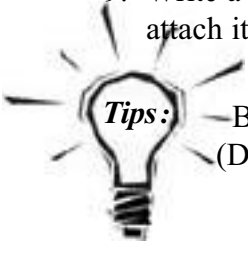
1/4 cup margarine or butter
about 50 large marshmallows or 4 cups miniature marshmallows
5 cups crispy rice cereal
saucepan
aluminum foil
various size funnels
plastic wrap
wooden stirring spoon

Adult help:

Have an adult assist you in using the stove to mix up your sticky-giant-kiss mixture.

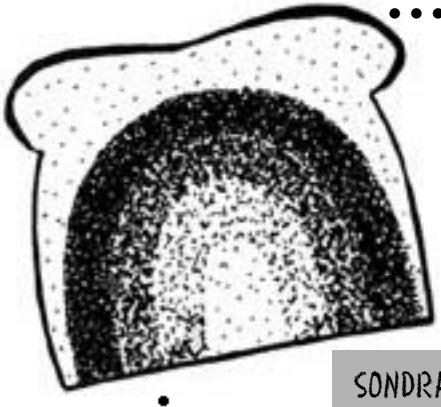
Follow these easy steps:

1. Melt margarine or butter in large saucepan over low heat.
2. Add marshmallows and stir until melted. Keep stirring about 3 minutes more.
3. Remove from heat and add cereal. It will be hard to stir.
4. Cool slightly.
5. Line each funnel with plastic wrap.
6. Butter your fingers and press warm cereal mixture into funnels.
7. Let cool 1 hour.
8. Slide giant kisses out of the funnel and wrap in aluminum foil.
9. Write a message or a person's name on a white tag and attach it to the top of your giant kiss.



Tips: Be sure to wash your hands before cooking. (Don't forget to clean up the kitchen also!)

For more fun in the kitchen, you'll enjoy the ***Mash & Smash Cookbook: Fun & Yummy Recipes Any Kid Can Make****, Marian Buck-Murray, John Wiley & Sons Publishing, 1998.*



DECORATED TOAST

SONDRA SAYS:
"It's always fun to be able to play with your food and then eat it afterwards."

Here's what you need before you begin:

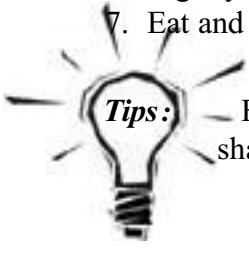
condensed milk
food coloring
white bread
paint brushes
bowls or small cups (4)
toaster

Adult help:

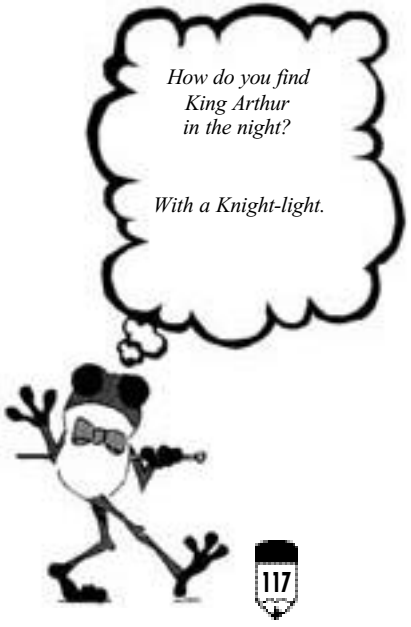
Ask an adult to be with you when you use the toaster.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Set out 4 small cups or bowls.
2. Pour 1 tablespoon condensed milk in each bowl.
3. Drop in a few drops of food coloring. Mix well.
4. With a clean paintbrush, use the colored milk as your "paint."
5. Draw pictures or designs on the toast.
6. Lightly toast the bread to reveal the decorated toast.
7. Eat and enjoy!



Tips: For extra special toast, cut the bread into fancy shapes with cookie cutters.



Fantastic Recipes You'll Never Want to Eat

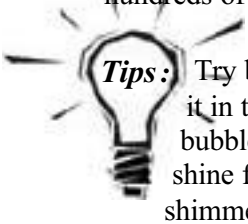
Don't get mixed up with the next recipes. You don't want to eat these—they are for making craft projects.

BIG BUBBLE SOLUTION:

Simply mix together:

1 cup water
2 tablespoons Light Karo syrup or glycerin (found in drug store)
4 tablespoons dishwashing liquid

Stir together and let set at least 24 hours. Use to make hundreds of bubbles.



Tips: Try blowing a bubble, then catching it and placing it in the freezer. You'll have a lightweight frozen bubble. For extra fun, blow bubbles at night and shine flashlights on them. It's fun to see them shimmer in the light.

GLURCH:

Mix one cup cornstarch with one cup water. This substance feels firm when you pick it up, then slowly starts to "ooze" between your fingers.

Tips: Glurch is great to use at Halloween. See if your friends are brave enough to close their eyes and then reach into a bowl of glurch and try to pick it up—gross!

SMELLY ART:

(good smelling, that is)

Mix 1 cup applesauce, 1-1/2 cup cinnamon, and 1/3 cup glue to form a ball. Chill at least 30 minutes. Roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness. (If it is any thinner, the cookies will crack.) Cut out dough using cookie cutters. Use a straw to punch a hole in the top for hanging. Let dry at room temperature for 2 days. String a ribbon through the hole and hang "cookies" throughout the house. You'll love the smell.

EASY CLAY BEAD DOUGH:

Place 1/2 cup salt in a large bowl. Have an adult add 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons hot water. Stir until salt is completely dissolved. Add 1-1/2 cups flour. Stir well. Let mixture cool. Knead dough until smooth and firm. Shape your clay into beads, trying not to get them bigger than a cherry. Use a toothpick to poke a hole in each bead. Put beads on aluminum foil-lined cookie sheet. Bake at 250° for 1 hour and 20 minutes. When beads are cool, decorate with paint or markers. String with carpet thread or dental floss.

MODELING DOUGH:

Have an adult use a saucepan over medium heat to mix 1 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup corn starch, and 2/3 cup warm water. Bring to a boil and stir constantly until mixture looks like mashed potatoes. Remove from heat and place dough on counter. Let cool and knead until smooth. Makes a great white dough to use like clay. After you make items, let them air dry 1–2 days.